Landmine Ban Treaty

1266. DR. KARAN SINGH: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Ms. Jody Williams, known, for the crusade against anti-personnel landmines, during her recent visit to attend the Peace Jam Conference for Children on 27th April, 2001 urged Government to sign the Landmine Ban Treaty without waiting for Pakistan;

(b) the number and details the incidents involving such landmines during 1999-2000, 2000-2001 and 2001-2002, so far indicating the number of lives of security personnel and others lost therein; and

(c) Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH): (a) yes, Sir.

(b) There have been no incidents involving the Indian Army related to anti-personnel landmines (APLs) along the International Border. However, incidents of mine blasts in the form of Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs) placed by militants in J&K and the North East and Army Personnel killed in these blasts, arc given below:

S. No.	Year		No. of IED Blasts	No. of Army Personnel killed
1.	1999	(upto 11.7.01)	180	5
2.	2000		170	4
3.	2001		134	2 (upto 16.7.01)

(c) India has not signed the Ottawa Convention on APLs at it docs not adequately address its security concerns. India is, however, a party to the Protocol II of the Inhumane Weapons

Convention, which deals with APLs. India is deeply concerned about the humanitarian tragedy caused by the indiscriminate exports and use of APLs, and follows a conscious policy of not exporting APLs. India is actively associated with de-mining activities*undertaken under the aegis of the UN in different affected regions.

Pakistan's willingness to sign CTBT

1267. DR. KARAN SINGH: Will the Minister EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any information that Pakistan had undertaken to Japan to sign CTBT on three conditions;

(b) if so, the terms set by Pakistan to sign the CTBT; and

(c) how close Pakistan is to sign CTBT?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH): (a) to fx) Government has only seen media reports in this context, quoting the Pakistan Foreign Minister, Mr. Abdus Sattar, after his return from a visit to Japan in March 2001, saying that Pakistan and Japan "have been discussing bilateral assurances that might satisfy the government of Japan to meet its legal requirements pertaining to the lifting of the sanctions in the wake of the nuclear tests". However, these reports do not mention any clear statement to the effect that Pakistan would sign the CTBT. According to other media reports in March 2001, General Musharraf had assured Pakistan's Debt Reduction and Management Committee that the government would soon be signing the CTBT to become eligible for increased international assistance. A meeting of Pakistan Army corps commanders the same month was also reported to have agreed that Pakistan should sign the CTBT. According to a subsequent media report in April, however, the Pakistan Interior Minister had told the Japanese Ambassador that Pakistan would not sign the CTBT.